



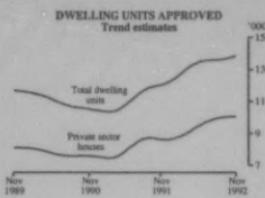
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 14 January 1993

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Dwelling approvals trend up again



The trend in total dwelling unit approvals has begun to grow more strongly again following a period of five months where the growth in the trend flattened out. Conversely, the trend for private sector houses approved in November 1992 is showing signs of flattening out after displaying consistent growth since December 1991.

The trend growth in total approvals is such that it would require a decrease of 5.3 per cent in seasonally adjusted total dwelling units approved for December 1992 to cause the trend series to flatten out. (The average monthly movement in the seasonally adjusted series has been 4.6%). For private sector house approvals, it will require a 4.7 per cent increase in the seasonally adjusted series for December 1992 in order to maintain the trend at its current levels. (The average monthly movement in the seasonally adjusted series is 4.1%).

Total dwelling unit approvals (seasonally adjusted), rose in all States except South Australia and Western Australia in November. Although the falls in Western Australia and South Australia were relatively large (18.4% and 13.1% respectively), they fell from a high base in October. The 4,188 dwelling units approved in New South Wales was the highest monthly total since March 1989.

The 2,620 dwelling units approved in Victoria was the highest monthly level of approvals since March 1990, and the 397 dwelling units approved in Tasmania was the highest since August 1986.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved rose by 1.0 per cent in November, following a 5.5 per cent rise in October. The number of private sector houses approved decreased by 1.9 per cent, the second consecutive month of decline for this series.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, NOVEMBER 1992
Percentage change

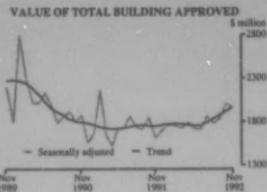
	Number	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses			
Trend	10,046	0.0	16.5
Seasonally adjusted	9,800	-1.9	14.4
Original	10,157	-5.1	15.5
Total dwelling units			
Trend	13,847	1.0	15.1
Seasonally adjusted	14,086	1.0	22.1
Original	14,600	1.4	22.1

Value of building approved

The provisional trend estimates for the value of total building approved are showing moderate growth to November 1992, with all three components contributing to the growth.

The provisional trend for the value of new residential approvals continues to display slow growth to November 1992, as it has done since March 1991.

Continued ...



It would require a fall of 4.6 per cent in the seasonally adjusted value of residential building approved in December to cause the trend to flatten out (the average monthly movement is 5.1%). The provisional trend series for the value of alterations and additions to residential buildings also continues to display growth, as it has done since January 1992.

The provisional trend estimates for the value of non-residential building approved to August 1992 indicate that the series has bottomed out following nearly three years of decline and is now showing signs of growth. However, because of the volatile nature of the series, care needs to be taken in interpreting recent data.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, NOVEMBER 1992
Percentage change

	\$ million	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building			
Trend	1,135.7	0.8	17.0
Seasonally adjusted	1,153.0	2.6	22.8
Original	1,176.9	2.0	22.8
Total building			
Trend	1,958.7	2.2	11.9
Seasonally adjusted	1,967.8	-1.3	22.2
Original	2,013.5	-5.3	24.1

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0), or contact *Pav! Seville* on (06) 252 6067.

Retail trade strengthens

In November 1992 there was a further strengthening in the trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments, with the November estimate increasing by 0.4 per cent over October 1992.

This strengthening in the trend estimates results from the small (0.1%) increase in the seasonally adjusted estimate for November and the continuing influence of the strong (2.0%) increase in the seasonally adjusted estimate for the month of October 1992.

Looking ahead, an increase of 1.0 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms in December would see the trend estimates for recent months further improve to around 0.6 per cent growth per month. In contrast a 1.0 per cent fall in seasonally adjusted terms for December would see the rate of increase in the trend estimates weaken slightly to around 0.3 per cent.

Industry trend estimates for department and general stores are showing strong growth averaging 1.2 per cent in the three months to November, an improvement over recent months. For grocers the rate of growth has weakened, averaging only 0.2 per cent increase over the last three months.

Continued ...



Other food stores are now showing moderate growth following a period of decline. The two other major industries covered by the survey, hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs and clothing and fabric stores continue to decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in November 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended November 1992	12 months ended November 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,315	0.2	0.5
Butchers	187	0.3	0.7
Other food stores	555	0.5	0.3
<i>Total food group</i>	3,057	0.2	0.5
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	951	-0.7	-0.1
Department and general stores	959	1.2	0.4
Clothing and fabric stores	558	-0.9	-0.3
Electrical stores	443	1.4	0.5
Pharmacies	363	1.5	1.1
Newsgagents	271	0.2	0.2
Other industries	1,525	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	8,127	0.4	0.4

The State trend estimates show that Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are going through a period of strong growth. Victoria and Tasmania are showing moderate growth while South Australia is showing no growth. New South Wales remains in decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1992								
July	-0.3	0.0	0.5	-0.4	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.1
August	-0.3	0.1	0.8	-0.2	1.2	0.4	0.8	0.2
September	-0.2	0.3	1.0	-0.1	1.4	0.4	1.0	0.4
October	-0.1	0.4	1.1	0.0	1.4	0.4	1.1	0.4
November	-0.1	0.4	1.0	0.0	1.3	0.4	1.0	0.4

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)*, or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.

Grape harvest pips record

The total production of grapes for all purposes from the 1991-92 harvest was 987,086 tonnes, an increase of 16.0 per cent from 1990-91. This is the highest recorded harvest in Australia, eclipsing the previous record set in 1985-86. Production increased in most of the major grape growing regions.

The total area of vines increased by 1.5 per cent to 61,014 hectares. Varieties showing significant new plantings included Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Shiraz. Together with Sultana, these are the varieties with the largest planted areas.



Some varieties showed a decrease in area of vines. These included Crouchen, Muscat Gordo Blanco, Palomino and Pedro Ximenes, Trebbiano and Waltham Cross.

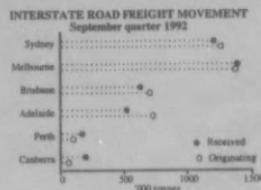
PRODUCTION OF GRAPES

'000 tonnes

	1990-91	1991-92	Percentage change
Winemaking	487.3	564.1	15.7
Drying	316.8	372.9	17.7
Table and other	47.0	50.1	6.6
<i>Total</i>	851.1	987.1	16.0

For further information, order the publication *Viticulture, Australia (7310.0)*, or contact Rex Porter on (08) 237 7652.

Survey improves statistics on interstate road freight industry



The accuracy of Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) information on interstate road freight movements has been enhanced by a survey of the interstate road freight industry conducted in July-August, 1992. The survey identified 73 additional enterprises within the scope of the road freight movement series (i.e. those carrying 20,000 tonnes or more interstate per year) since the previous coverage update in 1990.

The high turnover of operators has prompted the ABS to continue updating the coverage of this series on a two-yearly basis instead of the previous five-yearly surveys. Data from the newly identified enterprises has been included in the series as from the recently released September quarter 1992 publication. A further change in this publication is that the 'Other Interstate' category has been split into 'Other New South Wales', 'Other Victoria', 'Other Queensland', 'Other South Australia', 'Other Western Australia' and 'Other Northern Territory'.

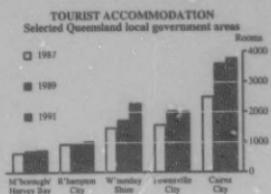
On a comparable basis, i.e. comparing the figures of only those respondents included in both the June and September quarters 1992, freight carried in the September quarter increased by 5.4 per cent over the previous quarter. Most major centres contributed to the increase.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT FOR SELECTED CAPITAL CITIES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1992

	Road freight originating		Road freight received	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change from previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change from previous quarter
Melbourne	1,385	8.9	1,396	5.1
Sydney	1,278	2.5	1,217	14.2
Adelaide	745	6.1	525	9.5
Brisbane	723	12.6	641	5.2
Perth	100	0.8	165	1.7
Canberra	42	1.6	189	45

For further information, order the publication *Interstate Road Freight Movement, Australia (9214.0)*, or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

A new dimension for tourism data



The long-running Survey of Tourist Accommodation has provided the basis for a new publication, *Tourist Accommodation Atlas of Queensland*, recently released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Atlas uses maps compiled from the survey data to provide a geographical perspective of tourist accommodation in Queensland during 1991. It has been designed to be of use to researchers, managers and students interested in the tourism and hospitality industry.

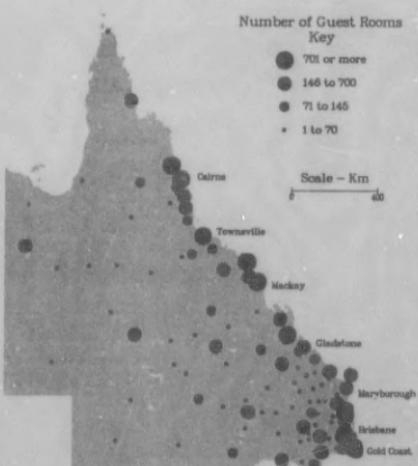
Information in the Atlas has been divided into three sections, namely hotels, motels and guest houses; caravan parks; and holiday flats, units and houses. Within each of these there is information on supply, demand, occupancy rates and takings.

The maps in each section show the main tourist regions of Queensland. Text and graphs assist in the interpretation of the maps, and illustrate important points.

Historical data are provided in many graphs, and quarterly data are shown in some maps, enabling evaluation of seasonal and other changes. For example, room occupancy rates in hotels, motels and guest houses on the North Coast in 1991 were lowest in the March quarter at 40.1 per cent, and highest in the September quarter at 69.4 per cent.

Maps showing the numbers and capacity of hotel, motel and guest house establishments and number of caravan park sites and holiday flats, units and houses are included.

DISTRIBUTION OF GUEST ROOMS IN 1991



The demand data maps feature utilisation measures in terms of guest nights and occupancy rates. For example, the Brisbane and Moreton Statistical Divisions accounted for 44.6 per cent (3.3 million) of the Queensland total of 7.5 million hotel, motel and guest house room nights in the year. (The Morton Division includes the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

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Editor

(06) 252 6104

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14 January 1993

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 January

14 The Labour Force, Australia, December 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.70)
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1992 (6354.0; \$12.70)

19 Export Price Index, Australia, November 1992 (6405.0; \$8.20)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, November 1992 (6407.0; \$10.70)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, November 1992 (6408.0; \$8.20)

20 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, November 1992 (5609.0; \$10.70)

21 Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, November 1992 (6412.0; \$10.70)

Selected releases 6 to 12 January

Demography

Demography, Vic., 1991 (3311.2; \$27.00)
Deaths, Vic., 1991 (3312.2; \$14.50)

Social statistics

Court Statistics, Tas., 1991 (4508.6; \$11.00)
National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Services Industries Selected Expense Items Aust., 1986-87, 1987-88 (5231.0; \$7.50) — new issue

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, October 1992 (5432.0; \$9.70)
Labour statistics and prices

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., December 1992 (6410.0; \$5.60)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Mining Operations, Aust., 1990-91 (8402.0; \$21.40) (Previously: Mining Operations, Aust. (for 1990-91) and Census of Mining Establishments: Summary of Operations by Industry Class, Australia (for 1989-90 and before))

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, November 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)

Building Approvals, Qld, November 1992 (8731.3; \$10.70)

Building Activity, WA, September Qtr 1992 (8752.5; \$10.70)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, October 1992 (8741.4; \$10.70)

Building Activity, SA, September Qtr 1992 (8752.4; \$10.70)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., October 1992 (8741.6; \$7.10)

Building Activity, Tas., September Qtr 1992 (8752.6; \$10.50)

Building Activity, NT, September Qtr 1992 (8752.7; \$10.50)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., November 1992 (9303.0; \$10.70)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, November 1992 (9303.5; \$7.60)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	n.a.	65,307	0.5	2.1
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	Nov. 92	\$m	-1,673	-1,603	8.2	-8.3
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-251	-41	86.7	4.7
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-431	-314	31.9	-22.2
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,119	5,107	9.1	13.7
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5,370	-5,148	3.2	13.5
Net foreign debt	30 Sept. 92	\$m	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7
New capital expenditure at 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0
New motor vehicle registrations	Nov. 92	no.	44,550	45,703	4.1	8.6
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	24,649	24,634	-0.1	-0.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Nov. 92	no.	14,600	14,086	1.0	22.1
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,014	1,968	-1.4	22.2
Building work done at 1984-85 prices	June qtr 92	"	3,754	3,765	-0.3	-6.8
Prices						
Consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	1989-90 = 100.0	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Oct. 92	1988-89 = 100.0	114.1	n.a.	0.1	2.6
Materials used in manufacturing industries	"	1984-85 = 100.0	127.8	n.a.	0.7	7.7
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons (d)	Nov. 92	'000	7,656.6	7,636.1	-1.0	-0.2
Participation rate ↑ (d)	"	%	62.1	62.6	-0.6	-0.4
Unemployment rate ↑ (d)	"	"	10.5	11.4	0.1	0.9
Job vacancies (d)	Aug. 92	'000	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
Average weekly overtime per employee (d)	"	hours	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	June 92	million	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Oct. 92	'000	229	222	2.1	6.4
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Sept. qtr 92	\$m	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Aug. 92	\$	585.80	n.a.	-0.3	3.2
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)	Nov. 92	% per annum	5.85	n.a.	0.0	-2.40
90-day bank bill ↑	"	"	9.15	n.a.	0.30	-0.65
10-year Treasury bonds ↑	Nov. 92	per \$A	0.6902	n.a.	-3.6	-12.2
Exchange rate — \$US	"	"	"	"	"	"

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 14 January 1993.

NOTES: ↑ = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year								
		NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 92	-21.5	-10.5	-5.7	-30.8	-3.4	-13.4	n.a.	n.a.	-14.8
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Nov. 92	2.5	3.9	8.9	-1.8	11.0	6.6	n.a.	6.6	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations†	Nov. 92	4.1	9.0	22.1	1.6	5.1	-4.7	38.3	5.0	8.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Nov. 92	29.1	25.1	10.6	3.5	31.1	36.4	31.8	106.7	22.1
Value of total building work done	June qtr 92	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons*	Nov. 92	-2.1	-0.5	2.5	0.7	0.8	-0.2	-0.5	4.5	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index	Sept. qtr 92	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Aug. 92	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population	June 92	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 92	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.